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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Paul FEBVRE *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/440,468

Filed: November 15, 1999

For: **Communication Methods and Apparatus**

Confirmation No. 3002

Art Unit: 2682

Examiner: Nguyen, Tu X.

Atty. Docket: 1487.0150000

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97((b)). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
- a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to

the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R.
§ 1.97(e)(1).

- b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- c. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
- a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

■ 5. Documents **AA1**, **AL1**, and **AM1** were cited in a Partial European Search Report in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of the partial search report is enclosed as document **AR1** for the convenience of the Examiner.

In addition, document **AB1** is provided as the U.S. counterpart. Specifically, Document **AB1** is the corresponding U.S. counterpart of document **AL1**.

- 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- 7. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Albert J. Fasulo, II
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,607

Date: December 2, 2002

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

DEC 02 2002

TRADEMARK GROUP

Robert Greene Sterne
Edward J. Kessler
Jorge A. Goldstein
David K.S. Cornwell
Robert W. Esmond
Tracy-Gen G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
Michael B. Ray
Robert E. Sokohl
Eric K. Steffe
Michael Q. Lee
Steven R. Ludwig
John M. Covert
Linda E. Alcorn
Robert C. Millonig
Lawrence B. Bugaisky
Donald J. Featherstone
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.
Patrick E. Garrett
Jeffrey T. Helvey*
Heidi L. Kraus
Edward W. Yee
Albert L. Ferro*
Donald R. Banowitz
Peter A. Jackman
Molly A. McCall
Teresa U. Medler
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Kendrick P. Patterson
Vincent L. Capuano
Albert J. Fasulo II*
Eldora Ellison Floyd
Thomas C. Fiala
Brian J. Del Buono

Virgil Lee Beaston*
Kimberly N. Reddick
Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes
Bruce E. Chalker
Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cunningham
Christine M. Lhuillier
Rae Lynn Prengaman
Jane Shereshovich*
Lawrence J. Carroll*
George S. Bardmessner
Daniel A. Klein*
Rodney G. Maze
Jason D. Eisenberg
Michael A. Specht*
Andrea J. Kamage
Tracy L. Muller*

Jon E. Wright*
LuAnne M. Yuricek*
Registered Patent Agents*
Karen R. Markowicz
Nancy J. Leith
Ann E. Summerfield
Helene C. Carlson
Gaby L. Longsworth
Matthew J. Dowd
Aaron L. Schwartz
Angelique G. Uy
Boris A. Matvenko
Mary B. Tung
Katrina Y. Pei
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
John J. Figueira

Timothy A. Doyle
Jennifer R. Mahalingappa
Teresa A. Colella
Jeffrey S. Lundgren
Victoria S. Rutherford
W. Brian Edge
Senior Counsel
Samuel L. Fox
Kenneth C. Bass III
Lisa A. Dunner
*Admitted only in Maryland
+ Admitted only in Virginia
♦ Admitted only in Texas
•Practice Limited to
Federal Agencies

December 2, 2002

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 312-7261

INTERNET ADDRESS:
AFASULO@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Group Art Unit 2682

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/440,468; Filed: November 15, 1999
For: **Communication Methods and Apparatus**
Inventors: Paul FEBVRE *et al.*
Our Ref: 1487.0150000

Sir:

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Technology Center 2600

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. A listing of the cited documents on Form PTO-1449 (*1 page*);
3. Copies of the cited documents (AA1-AB1; AL1-AM1; AR1); and
4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
December 2, 2002
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Albert J. Fasulo, II
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,607

Enclosures

::ODMA\MHODMA\SKGF_DCI;78825;1